

# Michelle Lujan Grisham

**Michelle Lynn Lujan Grisham** (/ˈluːhɑːn ˈɡrɪʃəm/; born October 24, 1959) is an American lawyer and politician serving as the 32nd governor of New Mexico since 2019. A member of the Democratic Party, Lujan Grisham previously served as the U.S. Representative for New Mexico's 1st congressional district from 2013 to 2018. On November 6, 2018, she became the first Democratic woman elected governor of New Mexico, as well as the first Democratic Hispanic woman elected state governor in U.S. history.

Lujan Grisham served as Secretary of Health of New Mexico from 2004 to 2007 and as Bernalillo County Commissioner from 2010 to 2012. She was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012, defeating Janice Arnold-Jones. In 2016, Lujan Grisham was selected as the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. She won the Democratic nomination for governor of New Mexico in 2018 and defeated Republican Steve Pearce on November 6, 2018.

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### See also

### References

## Michelle Lujan Grisham



### 32nd Governor of New Mexico

#### Incumbent

#### Assumed office

January 1, 2019

**Lieutenant** Howie Morales

**Preceded by** Susana Martinez

**Member of the  
U.S. House of Representatives  
from New Mexico's 1st district**

#### In office

January 3, 2013 – January 1, 2019

**Preceded by** Martin Heinrich

**Succeeded by** Deb Haaland

### Secretary of Health of New Mexico

#### In office

August 2004 – June 2007

**Governor** Bill Richardson

**Preceded by** Patricia Montoya

**Succeeded by** Alfredo Vigil

#### Personal details

## External links

## Early life and education

Michelle Lujan was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and grew up in Santa Fe. Her father, Llewellyn "Buddy" Lujan,<sup>[1]</sup> practiced dentistry into his 80s until he died in March 2011. Her mother, Sonja, was a homemaker. Michelle's sister Kimberly was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of two and died at 21.<sup>[2]</sup>

Lujan Grisham says that her ancestors have inhabited New Mexico for 12 generations.<sup>[3]</sup> She is part of the prominent Lujan political family in New Mexico, many of whose members have served in elected and appointed positions in government.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup>

Lujan graduated from St. Michael's High School. She received a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1981, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. The following year she married Gregory Alan Grisham. In 1987, Lujan Grisham earned a Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

## Early political career

Lujan Grisham served as Director of the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department under Governors Bruce King, Gary Johnson and Bill Richardson. During Richardson's tenure, the position was elevated to the state cabinet level. In 2004, he named Lujan Grisham as New Mexico Secretary of Health, and she served in the position until 2007.<sup>[8]</sup>

Lujan Grisham was later elected to the Bernalillo County Commission, serving from 2010 to 2012.

## U.S. House of Representatives

### Elections

#### 2008

Lujan Grisham resigned as Secretary of Health in order to run for the United States House of Representatives in the 2008 elections, losing in the Democratic primary to Martin Heinrich, who won with 44% of the vote. New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron ranked second with 25% and Michelle Lujan-Grisham ranked third with 24%.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup>

#### 2012

Lujan Grisham sought the Democratic nomination for the House again in 2012 after Heinrich decided to run for the United States Senate. She won the nomination, defeating Marty Chavez and Eric Griego.<sup>[12]</sup> She defeated Janice Arnold-Jones, a former member of the New Mexico House of Representatives, in the November general election.<sup>[13][14]</sup> 59%–41%.<sup>[15]</sup>

<b>Born</b>	<div>Michelle Lynn Lujan</div> <div>October 24, 1959</div> <div>Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.</div>
<b>Political party</b>	<u>Democratic</u>
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<div>Gregory Grisham</div> <div>(<u>m.</u> 1982; died 2004)</div>
<b>Children</b>	2
<b>Residence</b>	<u>Governor's Mansion</u>
<b>Education</b>	<u>University of New Mexico</u> (BS, JD)
<b>Website</b>	<u>Government website</u> ( <u>http://governor.state.nm.us</u> )

## 2014

Lujan Grisham defeated Republican Mike Frese in the 2014 elections, 59% to 41%.<sup>[16]</sup>

## 2016

In 2016, Lujan Grisham defeated Republican Richard Priem, receiving 179,380 votes (65.1%) to Priem's 96,061 (34.9%).<sup>[17]</sup>

## Tenure

Lujan Grisham was sworn in as a member of Congress on January 3, 2013. In 2016, she was one of nine members of Congress who took a trip to Baku that was later found to have been secretly funded by the government of Azerbaijan; she had to turn over gifts the country gave her to the House Clerk after an ethics investigation. Both the Office of Congressional Ethics and House Ethics Committee found lawmakers and aides had no way of knowing the trip was being funded improperly.<sup>[18]</sup>

Also in 2016, Lujan Grisham was selected as the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.<sup>[19]</sup>

Lujan Grisham resigned her House seat as of December 31, 2018 to assume the governorship of New Mexico the following day.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Committee assignments

- Committee on Agriculture
  - United States House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition
  - United States House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research (Ranking Member)
- Committee on the Budget

## Caucuses

- Congressional Hispanic Caucus (Chairwoman)
- Congressional Native American Caucus
- Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

# Governor of New Mexico

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## Election

On December 13, 2016, one week after Tom Udall announced he would not run for governor of New Mexico, Lujan Grisham became the first person to announce her candidacy to succeed Susana Martinez, who was prohibited from running because of term limits.<sup>[21]</sup> On June 5, 2018, she won the Democratic primary to become the party's nominee. On November 6, she was elected governor in a race against Republican U.S. Representative Steve Pearce. She won with 56.9% (385,684) of the vote, while Pearce received 43.1% (292,043).<sup>[22]</sup>

## Tenure

Lujan Grisham was sworn in on January 1, 2019.<sup>[23]</sup> In September 2019, she announced a plan to make public universities in New Mexico tuition-free to state residents.<sup>[24]</sup>

## Political positions

### Abortion

In 1969, the New Mexico Legislature passed a law that made it a felony for someone to provide a woman with an abortion unless it was needed to save a woman's life, or because her pregnancy was a result of rape or incest.<sup>[25]</sup> The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in 1973's *Roe v. Wade* barred states from regulating abortion in the first trimester.<sup>[26]</sup> consequently, New Mexico's 1969 abortion law became unenforceable.<sup>[27][28]</sup> In her 2019 State of the State address, Lujan Grisham stated her support for a repeal of the 1969 law; she said, "The old criminal abortion law of this state, only one of nine left in the entire country, must go. Bring me that bill and I will sign it".<sup>[29]</sup> Lujan Grisham published an op-ed in support of repeal on March 3, 2019.<sup>[30]</sup> Repeal legislation passed the New Mexico House of Representatives;<sup>[31]</sup> however, that legislation was defeated in the Democratic-led State Senate on March 14, 2019 by a vote of 24-18.<sup>[28]</sup> Following the Senate vote, Lujan Grisham said, "This old, outdated statute criminalizing health care providers is an embarrassment. That removing it was even a debate, much less a difficult vote for some senators, is inexplicable to me".<sup>[32]</sup>



Michelle Lujan Grisham speaking at a budget rally, May 2017

### Environment

On January 29, 2019, Lujan Grisham signed an executive order calling for New Mexico to join the United States Climate Alliance and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.<sup>[33]</sup> This executive order also called for the state to develop comprehensive regulations to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, and for state agencies to work with the legislature to increase the state's renewable portfolio standard.<sup>[34]</sup>

In March 2019, Lujan Grisham signed New Mexico's Energy Transition Act. The legislation transitions the state's electricity sector away from coal and natural gas and toward a renewable economy, requiring New Mexico's electricity to be 50% renewable by 2030 and 100% from zero-carbon sources by 2045. She called the legislation "a promise to future generations of New Mexicans."<sup>[35]</sup>

### Guns

Lujan Grisham was a co-sponsor of the 2015 Assault Weapon Ban H. R. 4269 Bill that was introduced on December 12, 2015.<sup>[36]</sup>

### Minimum wage

In 2015, Lujan Grisham co-sponsored legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$12/hour.<sup>[37]</sup>

## Israel

Lujan Grisham is a strong supporter of Israel. She condemned the United Nations Security Council's criticism of Israel's settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territories.<sup>[38]</sup>

## Personal life

Lujan Grisham's husband, Gregory, died of a brain aneurysm in 2004. The couple had two daughters.<sup>[39]</sup> Lujan Grisham filed a wrongful death suit against her husband's physician.<sup>[40]</sup> The lawsuit was dropped.<sup>[39]</sup>

## See also

- List of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States Congress
- Women in the United States House of Representatives

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## External links

- Official website of the Governor of New Mexico (<https://www.governor.state.nm.us/>)
- Grisham's 2018 gubernatorial campaign website (<http://www.newmexicansformichelle.com/>)
- Michelle Lujan Grisham ([https://curlie.org/Regional/North America/United States/New Mexico/Government/Federal/US\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives/Michelle\\_Lujan\\_Grisham\\_%5BD-1%5D](https://curlie.org/Regional/North America/United States/New Mexico/Government/Federal/US_House_of_Representatives/Michelle_Lujan_Grisham_%5BD-1%5D)) at Curlie
- 
- Biography (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=L000580>) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Profile (<https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/102404>) at Vote Smart
- Financial information (federal office) (<https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/C00501254>) at the Federal Election Commission

- Legislation sponsored (<https://www.congress.gov/member/michelle-lujan-grisham/2146>) at the Library of Congress
- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?michellegrisham>) on C-SPAN

### U.S. House of Representatives

Preceded by <b><u>Martin Heinrich</u></b>	<b>Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New Mexico's 1st congressional district</b> 2013–2018	Succeeded by <b><u>Deb Haaland</u></b>
Preceded by <b><u>Linda Sánchez</u></b>	<b>Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus</b> 2017–2019	Succeeded by <b><u>Joaquin Castro</u></b>

### Party political offices

Preceded by <b><u>Gary King</u></b>	<b>Democratic nominee for Governor of New Mexico</b> 2018	<b>Most recent</b>
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### Political offices

Preceded by <b><u>Susana Martinez</u></b>	<b>Governor of New Mexico</b> 2019–present	<b>Incumbent</b>
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### U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)

Preceded by <b><u>Mike Pence</u></b> <i>as Vice President</i>	<b><u>Order of Precedence of the United States</u></b> Within New Mexico	Succeeded by <b>Mayor of city</b> in which event is held
		Succeeded by <b><u>Otherwise Nancy Pelosi</u></b> <i>as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Preceded by <b><u>Kevin Stitt</u></b> <i>as Governor of Oklahoma</i>	<b><u>Order of Precedence of the United States</u></b> Outside New Mexico	Succeeded by <b><u>Doug Ducey</u></b> <i>as Governor of Arizona</i>

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